

WARWICK LAND TRUST
October 15, 2013
MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order:

- Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm. Trustees in attendance were Derek Andersen (Chair), Juan Cano, Leslie Derrig, Deb Place, Rob Baxter and Tim Howe. Trustees not in attendance were Chris D'Ovidio, and Mary Bagley. A quorum existed. Also present were Sue Cabeceiras of the Planning Dept and Mary Grady.
- Approval of September 2013 meeting: A motion was made by Leslie to approve these minutes. This motion was seconded by Tim and approved unanimously.

Sue reported that there is \$400 in the land trust account and that there is a second account that was already in existence and contains \$47.50.

The Trustees discussed additional funding for the Passeonkquis Cove properties. Rob suggested calling our State Senators and Representatives to find some legislative grants. He contacted Mike McCaffrey and needed some additional information to help answer his questions. Sue sent him the power point presentation that Mary Grady put together. With this additional information, Rob will now contact Rep McCaffrey and the other senators and representatives and ask for funding. Leslie will meet with Joe Solomon to see if he can help find funding. Juan spoke with Steve Colantuono who did think they could get much money from the community as there are no businesses near the Cove.

Juan presented a motion to approach the State Legislature to waive all court filing fees for acquisition of Land for preservation to City of Warwick and/or Warwick Land Trust. This motion was seconded by Leslie and unanimously approved.

Rob presented a motion to use the Land Trust budget to pay the \$65 fee for Leslie to take a grant writing class on November 8th from 5 Star Seminars. Tim seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the Trustees.

Chris D'Ovidio has asked to be excused from Land Trust meetings until January as he is teaching a class at Roger Williams University again this year. Leslie presented a motion to approve this request. Dereck seconded the motion that was unanimously approved.

Leslie brought printouts from Craigslist of two properties listed for sale on Spadina Avenue. Joe will check with the Assessors office to see if there are back taxes owed on this property.

Rob discussed a property located at Plat 378, lots 90-99 that are located at the end of Randall Avenue in Warwick Neck. He suggested that Sue send the owner of these properties letters asking them to donate the land to the Land Trust. Sue sent the letter but did not hear back from the owners.

Rob brought the topic of the possible closure of Samuel Gorton Junior High School. There is quite a lot of land on this property that could be preserved for open space, should the school close. Rob will talk to Councilman Ed Ladouceur about this matter. Deb will talk to Councilman Tom Chadronet about the possible closure of Aldrich Junior High and any possible land donation.

Leslie presented a motion to have Sue send another letter to the property owners along the Conimicut Marsh similar to the one sent in February 2013. This motion was seconded by Juan and unanimously approved by the Trustees.

Sue brought up an issue that the City Council will now require Land Trust review of all zone changes. In many cases this will not involve any changes in the existing footprint of an existing property, just the zoning. Juan presented a motion that Sue use her judgment when reviewing the zone change requests that if they will not affect Land Trust properties, or open space preservation issues, she can complete the review on behalf of the Land Trust and respond with no objection. Leslie seconded this motion that was unanimously approved.

Dereck has received a request for the Warwick Land Trust to join the Land Trust Council for a fee of \$125. Leslie presented a motion to not join the Land Trust Council. This motion was seconded by Rob and unanimously approved.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Leslie, 2nd by Juan to adjourn. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Submitted by Susan Cabeceiras, Planning Department Staff Assistant.